



United States Department of Interior

Fish & Wildlife Service
Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office
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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT August 2001



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LGLFRO Staff

Chris Castiglione, GIS Specialist
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Mike Weimer, Fishery Biologist
Dan deRoos, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Gwen Warren, Office Automation Assistant
Maureen Waterman, Biological Technician
Allison Knapp, Biological Technician

Volunteers

Joe Undercoffer, Melissa Nemeth, Kyle Baker, Phil Diers,
Jeremy Clark, Laura Russo, Tom Diggins, Shannon Decker,
Dawn Newman.

LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

Matt conducted lake sturgeon population surveys in Lake Ontario. Surveys targeted adult fish. Eleven fish were captured.

LAKE ONTARIO

Betsy continued the Lake Ontario biomonitoring program, collecting samples at three nearshore stations in Lake Ontario and one nearshore station in Lake Erie. A total of 4 embayment and 9 nearshore sites are sampled 12 times a year, and offshore sites are sampled a couple of times a year. Samples are collected for phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and zooplankton analysis. The purpose of this program is to monitor lower trophic variables that characterize long-term ecosystem change.

LAKE ERIE

Mike W. and Mike S. conducted fish community surveys in wetland embayments of Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania (8/7-8), and the Spicer Creek/Niagara River confluence on Grand Island, NY (8/8-9). Sampling consisted of 24-hour fyke net sets and backpack electrofishing. These surveys are being conducted in collaboration with researchers from McMasters University (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada) as part of a basin-wide assessment of the status of fish communities in Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

Betsy continued the Lake Erie lower trophic level monitoring program, collecting samples at two stations outside Buffalo Harbor. A total of 18 stations in Lake Erie and two in Lake St. Clair are sampled 12 times a year. Samples are collected for phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, zooplankton, and phytoplankton analysis. Bottom macroinvertebrates are collected once in the spring and once in the fall. The purpose of this lakewide program is to monitor lower trophic variables that characterize long-term ecosystem changes.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Mike S. conducted fish, benthic invertebrate, plankton, and habitat surveys at several locations along the Erie Canal in New York (8/1-3, 6, 20-24). Survey sites included Holley, Lockport, North Tonawanda, Pittsford, and Newark, the Genesee River in Rochester at the confluence of the canal, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, and Three Rivers Junction near Syracuse.

Jeff collected round goby and zebra mussels from Presque Isle, PA (8/22-23). Jeff also collected round goby from Dunkirk Harbor, NY (8/29). All mussels and fish were brought back to the Buffalo State College Field Station and are being used in the study, *Trophic Transfer Dynamics of Polynucleated Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) from Dreissenid Mussels to Round Gobies (Neogobius melanostomus)*. This study is funded by Pennsylvania Sea Grant.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL LANDS)

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS)

Chris L. began drafting the Landscape Management Plan with assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District (USACE). The USACE is developing the chapter on noxious and invasive plant species management.

Dan and Maureen conducted field surveys for several on-going projects at the NFARS, including purple loosestrife, birds of prey, and small mammals. Data was collected on approximately 70 small mammals.

Dan and Chris L. completed and forwarded the final draft of the report, *The Effects of Mowing on Grassland Birds* to NFARS.

Fort Drum

Chris L. and Jeff attended the Semi-annual Natural Resources Conservation meeting (8/16). Chris and Jeff provided a progress report on the Indian and Narrow Lakes fisheries project.

GIS AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Chris C. met with Steve Watchorn and Lynda Schneekloth (University of Buffalo) and Ken

Forgeron (Regional Niagara - Canada) to discuss the Rethinking Niagara Project (9/8). This project is a binational effort to improve green space within the Niagara Region.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The LGLFRO staffed a display at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, NY (8/8-19). The Fair is one of the largest in the United States. The display highlighted ongoing activities at the LGLFRO, including aquatic nuisance species prevention, lake sturgeon rehabilitation, and lake trout restoration. The LGLFRO won the Award of Distinction among the environmental conservation displays at the Fair. Approximately 8,800 people stopped at the LGLFRO display to read posters, take literature and ask questions about our activities.

Chris L. and Brian Greene (La Crosse FRO, WI) gave a presentation on aquatic ecology and lake sturgeon at the St. John's Baptist Vacation Bible School (8/2).

Betsy and Mike S. conducted a boat electrofishing demonstration at a summer workshop for High School biology teachers (8/29). The workshop was sponsored by the Center for Great Lakes Environmental Education and New York Sea Grant.

STAFF TRAINING

Sandra attended the training course, *Supervision: An Introduction*, at the Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV (8/20-24).

OTHER

Kofi attended the Service's Region 5 Awards and Recognition Committee meeting in Hadley, MA (8/9). Members of the committee were tasked by the Regional Directorate Team to implement a broader and expanded approach to recognition throughout the region.

Chris L., in cooperation with the New York Field Office (Cortland, NY), conducted a preliminary fishery investigation of Cowasalon Creek, a tributary of Oneida Lake (8/7-8). This initiative, in partnership with the Great Swamp Conservancy, includes an assessment of fish

communities in the creek and the development of recommendations for habitat restoration and recreational enhancement.

Dan and Maureen assisted Dr. Sara Morris (Canisius College) in setting up passerine nets for bird banding as well as with data collection at Tift Nature Preserve (8/20).

Chris C. met with Nichelle Billhardt (Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District) to finish a report for the Johnson Creek Streambank Restoration project.

Two SCEP employees, Brian Greene and Nekea Walker from La Crosse, WI spent a week at the LGLFRO (7/30-8/3) and a week at Allegheny National Fish Hatchery as part of the completion of their summer employment. While at our office the students participated in various activities including the lake sturgeon program, and the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie Biomonitoring programs.

Betsy attended the monthly meeting of the Partners for Urban Resources and the Environment (PURE) Steering Committee (8/27). PURE provides technical assistance for urban environmental conservation and restoration projects.

Kofi toured the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge with the refuge manager, Tom Jasikoff (9/21). Kofi and Tom discussed collaborating on a potential fish passage project on the refuge, and brainstormed on how to form a “Friends Group” in the Service’s Fisheries Program.

Kofi met with Dick Moy, Town Supervisor of Clarendon, NY, and Hanny Heyen, a staff member of Congressman John LaFalce, at the Clarendon Town Hall (8/31). Mr. Moy briefed Kofi and Ms. Heyen about his concerns regarding potential environmental impacts caused by local quarry activities. Mr. Moy and some local landowners gave Kofi and Ms. Heyen a tour of some of the properties adjacent to the quarry.

Mike W. began a one-month work assignment at the Branch of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance in the Washington office. The detail will run from 8/19 to 9/14.

elsewhere in any way without first contacting our staff. This is to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information.